

(57) Abstract

A data structure is provided for annotating data files within a database. The annotation data comprises a phoneme and word lattice which allows the quick and efficient searching of data files within the database in response to a user's input query. The structure of the annotation data is such that it allows the input query to be made by voice and can be used for annotating various kinds of data files, such as audio data files, video data files, multimedia data files etc. The annotation data may be generated from the data files themselves or may be input by the user either from a voiced input or from a typed input.

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